



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA HEARING DAY

WHEREAS: Hearing plays an integral role in effective communication, personal and professional relationships, as well as the overall health and safety of an individual; and

WHEREAS: Hearing loss is typically irreversible and has been linked to cognitive decline, dementia, falls, depression, isolation and eardrum damage; and

WHEREAS: Hearing loss may be a symptom of an underlying medical condition including an infection, a tumor, otosclerosis or Meniere's disease, among others; and

WHEREAS: According to the Better Hearing Institute, untreated hearing loss may lead to significant income ramifications, including impacting household income by up to \$12,000 annually, depending on the degree of hearing loss, and a total cost of \$122 billion in national earnings; and

WHEREAS: Noise-induced hearing loss is preventable, yet often unrecognized among American adults. The occurrence of preventable hearing loss is increasing among adolescents due to over-amplification of personal listening devices; and

WHEREAS: More than 37 million American adults (15 percent) report some trouble hearing, and nearly 28.2 million U.S. adults could benefit from the use of hearing aids, according to the National Institutes of Deafness and Other Communications Disorders (NIDCD); and

WHEREAS: As reported by NIDCD, fewer than 30 percent of adults aged 70 and older and 16 percent of adults between the ages of 20 and 69 who are affected by hearing loss could benefit from hearing aids, but have never used the device; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Society of Hearing Professionals, a chapter of the International Hearing Society, is comprised of hearing health care professionals, including hearing aid specialists and audiologists, who are trained and specialize in the identification and assessment of hearing loss, rehabilitation through the use of hearing aids and related devices, and counseling for those affected by such conditions; and

WHEREAS: On Georgia Hearing Day, organizations such as the Georgia Society of Hearing Professionals raise awareness of appropriate measures to prevent deafness and hearing loss, as well as information to improve care for ears and hearing; and

WHEREAS: This year's theme, "Hearing the future," emphasizes hearing loss prevention and promotes increased access to rehabilitation services and communication tools for those affected by hearing loss; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 19, 2018, as GEORGIA HEARING DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 14th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF